

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 EB-07 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-03 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 FRB-03 /117 W

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R 051112Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9055

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY ROME

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

REF: ANKARA 8972, NOV 15, 1974

1. IN CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ON ATTILA AYBAY, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ETIBANK, TURKISH STATE MINING ENTERPRISE, WHICH PRODUCES BULK OF TURKEY'S MINERALS, EMBOFF RAISED SUBJECT OF MERCURY PRODUCERS CONFERENCE HELD IN GENEVA IN MID-APRIL (1975).

2. AYBAY SAID TURKEY WAS REPRESENTED BY VICE PRESIDENT OF ETIBANK. OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED WERE SPAIN, ITALY,
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PERU, YUGOSLAVIA AND ALGERIA. MEXICO DID NOT ATTEND BUT

MAY JOIN AT LATER STAGE. AYBAY REFERRED TO ARTICLE IN "METALS WEEK" ON CONFERENCE AND SAID HE FOUND IT ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE.

3. AYBAY SAID NO ONE SHOULD BE CONCERNED AT POSSIBILITY OF MERCURY PRODUCERS FORMING A "CARTEL". RATHER, PROBLEM EVOLVED AROUND CONCERN IN WEST WITH MERCURY POLLUTION WHICH IS LEADING TO INCREASING USE OF RE-CYCLED AND REPROCESSED MERCURY RATHER THAN IMPORTS OF MERCURY PRODUCED BY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE. SEVERE PRICE DROP (SAID PRICE NOW \$165 PER 76-POUND FLASK) IS MAKING IT UNECONOMIC FOR TURKEY, AS EXAMPLE, TO PRODUCE AND EXPORT MERCURY. TURKEY IS CONTINUING PRODUCTION FROM MOST MOST EFFICIENT MINES FOR DOMESTIC STOCK-PILING, BUT AYBAY WONDERED HOW LONG GOVERNMENT CAN CONTINUE THIS POLICY.

4. GENEVA AGREEMENT, IN PRINCIPLE, CALLS FOR RATIONALIZATION OF PRODUCTION, EXCHANGE OF DATA, CLOSER TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND PROMOTION OF MERCURY CONSUMPTION AND IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY A YET UNDEFINED ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA. REPORTEDLY, TALKS WILL RESUME IN GENEVA IN JUNE.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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